

A regular meeting of  
**THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**

will be held at the Museum

Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets

Saturday, November 9, 1968 at 3:00 P.M.

The Moritz Wormser Memorial Lecture

will be delivered by

**ERIC P. NEWMAN**

on

**THE USE OF**

**BRITISH HALFPENCE AND BUNG TOWNS**

**IN EARLY AMERICA**

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND**

**LESLIE A. ELAM, *Acting Secretary***

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INTRODUCTION PR

PROGRAM IS UNREHEARSED. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED NOT GIVEN  
ME BY THE SOCIETY.

EXPERT; MAN FROM OUT OF TOWN WITH SLIDES

WYLLIS BETTS APRIL 8, 1886 LECTURED HERE ON CTF  $\frac{1}{2}$ D AND IF ANY OF YOU WERE  
PRESENT PLEASE EXCUSE ANY POSSIBLE REPETITION

BRINGING COALS TO NEWCASTLE TO TALK ABOUT MINT HEAR NEWBURGH, NEW YORK  
MYSTERY OF MACHINS MILLS COINAGE FASCINATED ME FOR 10 YEARS

ORANGE LAKE RESORT AREA IN 1787 WAS DIFFERENT

OPERATIONS IN SECRET - TOWNSFOLK SUSPICIOUS

MASKS TO FREIGHTEN BOYS FISHING

UNEARTHLY NOISES AT NIGHT. DEVIL WORKS THERE

MURDERERS CREEK WAS A MOST APROPOS NAME

ENGLISH COPPER COUNTERFEITING

COPPER COINS IN ENGLAND BEGAN 1672 UNDER CHARLES II  
UNDER GEORGE II CTF. BEGAN. NO CTF. LAW EXCEPT GOLD & SILVER  
HIGH COST OF MANUFACTURE PROPORTIONATE TO VALUE  
KING PROFITED OR COUNTERFEITER DID BUT PEOPLE DID NOT SUFFER  
1742 ACT MADE UTTERER OF FALSE COIN FELONY. COPPER NOT CONSIDERED COIN.  
PRIVATE COINING OF COPPER - TWO YEAR PENALTY  
IN 1751 KING ORDERED ENFORCEMENT - EVASIONS FIRST APPEAR  
IN 1753 OVER 40% CTF. COPPER IN ENGLAND  
REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AND SENT OVER TO AMERICA  
TURNPIKE KEEPERS REFUSED COIN ONE END AND GAVE IT IN CHANGE ON OTHER.  
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH SMASHERS, SHOPKEEPERS, ETC.  
ROYAL COINAGE AT TOWER 1770-75  
1771 LAW TO PROTECT GEORGE III COPPERS MADE IT FELONY TO CTF. OR TO DEAL  
IN AT LOWER RATE. PUBLIC PROTECTED.  
EVASIONS NOW COME IN QUANTITY  
THIS WRECKED ENFORCEMENT OF CTF. COPPERS BECAUSE EVASIONS WERE EXEMPT.  
EACH DATE FROM 1770 TO 1775 MORE AND MORE CTF. 250 VARIETIES OF CTF.  
BY 1782 TOLL GATES RECD. 2/3 IN CTF.  
SHIPMENT TO AMERICA AT CLOSE OF WAR IN 1783.  
NO PACKET ARRIVES WITHOUT SOME HUNDRED WT. OF BASE 1/2D  
MAY 13, 1785 REPORT TO CONT. CONG. SAYS WE GIVE 6 TIMES THE VALUE FOR COPPER  
COIN AND U.S. LOST \$30,000 IN ONE YEAR, ENOUGH TO BUILD A MINT.  
BIRMINGHAM THE SOURCE OF COINAGE  
COLLAPSE OF COPPER CIRCULATION IN 1789

COPPERS IN NEW YORK

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1733 INTRODUCED INTO CIRCULATION

12/16/1737 ACT SAYS 1/2d & 1/4d CIRCULATE OVER INTRINSIC VALUE

ACT PROHIBITS IMPORTATION OF COPPERS OVER 10 SH PER PERSON

ALL GENUINE. NO COUNTERFEIT PROBLEM

REASON FOR ACT: ENGLISH HALFPENNY CIRCULATED FOR 1 PENNY N.Y.

EXCHANGE RATE 1.65 N.Y. FOR 1 ENGLISH POUND

BEST IMPORT ITEM WAS COPPERS

ORDER 1737 ACT REPRINTED 9/15/50 - DISCUSSION IN PRESS TO CHANGE TO 13 SHILLING  
TO STOP IMPORTATION

THEN PHILA. AT 15 TO PA. SHILLING (17% PROFIT) and BOSTON AT 18 TO NEW ENGLAND  
SHILLING (12% PROFIT) WOULD BE BROUGHT TO N.Y.

12/12/1753 ACT IMPORTING COUNTERFEIT COPPER 1/2 OR 1/4 \$100 FINE TO INFORMER  
PASSING CTF. KNOWING IT PENALTY 10 TIMES AMT. PASSED. (MELTED - GIVEN TO POOR)  
IF PERSON KEEPS CTF. IN HIS CUSTODY 10 DAYS SAME AS IMPORTING  
NO PROHIBITION AGAINST COINING IF NOT KEPT FOR 10 DAYS OR PASSED IN NEW YORK.

HAVE TO BE CAUGHT TWICE

1/11/54 RIOT IN N.Y. WHEN MERCHANTS REFUSED COPPERS. PEOPLE THREW COINS IN STREET  
RATE OF 15 TO SHILLING SET BY MERCHANTS.

MAY 1775 ALL COPPER COINS ORDERED BY ENGLAND WITHHELD FROM AMERICAN SHIPMENT

JUNE 1776 ALL COPPER COIN SUPPRESSED IN N.Y. IN 3 MONTHS.

BRITISH OCCUPIED AND ALL MONEY SUPPRESSED.

1774 COMPILATION HAD 1753 ACT. 1777 N.Y. CONSTITUTION CONTINUED ALL ACTS IN FORCE

1782 COMPILATION FORGOT 1753 ACT

BAILEY & BRASHER PETITIONED 2/12/87

VAN VORHIS & WM. COLEY PETITIONED 2/16/87

MACHIN PETITIONED 3/3/87 ALL MADE SAMPLES

3/15/87 COMMITTEE REPORT ON MINTING COPPER SHOWED IN CIRCULATION

GEORGE II, IRISH, BIRMINGHAM 1/2d "IN IMITATION OF BRITISH HALFPENCE" N.J.

NO MENTION OF NOVAS, CONN., VT., OR EVASIONS

REPORT CONCLUDED THAT EXPENSE OF COINAGE & PROFIT FROM IT IS KEPT A SECRET

BY THOSE WHO KNOW & CONCLUDED THAT THERE MUST BE TOO MUCH PROFIT.

NO FRANCHISE

APRIL 1787 ACT THAT NO COPPERS PASS EXCEPT FULL WEIGHT AFTER 8/1/87

AND 20 TO THE SHILLING. TOOK EFFECT AT ONCE. NO DISTINGUISHMENT ORDER

BETWEEN GENUINE & COUNTERFEIT. THIS DID NOT FOLLOW FEDERAL & ALL STATE

OF 10/16/86 REQUIRING ALL FOREIGN COPPER OUT BY 9/1/87

COINAGE 2-1/4 LBS TO \$ WHICH WOULD BE 13 TO 14 SHILLING IN N.Y.

1753 ACT REPEALED MARCH 12, 1788

THOMAS MACHIN

BORN 1744 ENGLAND - CANAL ENGINEER - AMERICA IN 1772  
CELEBRANT AT BOSTON TEA PARTY - WOUNDED AT BUNKER HILL  
ASSIGNED BY WASHINGTON TO HUDSON RIVER PROTECTION UNDER GEORGE CLINTON  
WOUNDED IN FORT MONTGOMERY ARTILLERY BATTLE WITH BRITISH SHIP  
1778 MADE GREAT CHAIN ACROSS HUDSON (WEST POINT AND NEWBURGH MUSEUMS)  
JOINED GEN. JOHN SULLIVAN EXPEDITION AGAINST INDIANS  
1781 TO YORKTOWN - HIT BRITISH SHIP WHILE INSTRUCTING  
1783 - RESIDENCE BEGUN ON 108 ACRE TRACT BOT BY CLINTON IN 1782  
GEORGE CLINTON 18 TERMS GOV. OF N.Y. VICE PRES. U.S. JEFFERSON & MADISON  
CAST DECIDING VOTE AGAINST RENEWAL OF BANK OF U.S.CHARTER 1811  
ADDITIONAL ORANGE LAKE OUTLET MADE. SAW AND COPPER MILL AT JUNCTION  
18 FEET LOWER AND 400 YARDS FROM LAKE

MACHIN MILLS CONTRACT

APRIL 18, 1787. ORIGINAL AT A.N.S.

6 PARTNERS - JAMES F.ATLEE AND SAMUEL ATLEE FURNISH TOOLS

MACHIN FURNISH MILL

GILES, LAWYER, KEEPS BOOKS

ALL FRANCHISES FOR COINAGE FROM U.S. OR ANY STATE

ATLEE & MACHIN TO COMPLETE AND RUN PRODUCTION

DAVID BROOKS PARTNER

NEW CONTRACT 6/7/87 WITH VT. COINERS FOR 8 YRS.

GRIER CASHIER AT RUPPERT, VOORHIS CASHIER AT ORANGE LAKE

WORKS TO BE COMPLETED AT BOTH PLACES

RUPPERT FOR COINING MONEY - MACHINS FOR "THE COINAGE OF MONEY & MANUFACTURING

HARD WARE" MEANING COPPERS LIKE WOODS MONEYS

VIOLATION IF OTHER THAN VERMONT MADE AT RUPPERT

RECORDS USED IN 1845 & 1885, LOST 25 YEARS AGO

CLOSED IN 1789, WHEN COPPERS COLLAPSED. MACHIN MOVED

NEVER INTERFERED WITH

IN 1864 CAPT. THOMAS MACHIN (SON) SAYS DAD DID NOTHING ILLEGAL

BUNGTOWN

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BUNG MEANS PICKPOCKET

SHAKESPEARE'S HENRY IV. "YOU CUT PURSE RASCALL, YOU FILTHY BUNG".

BRUMMAGEN IS LATIN FOR BIRMINGHAM AND MEANS COUNTERFEIT SINCE 17TH CENTURY  
BRUM IS SHORT FOR BRUMMAGEN & IS USED IN ENGLAND AS CTF.

BUNGTOWN IS AMERICAN WORD UNKNOWN IN ENGLAND. USED IN NEW ENGLAND  
BECAUSE OF CTF. OF COPPER THE NAME BUNGTOWN WAS GIVEN TO

BARNEYSVILLE, REHOBOTH, MASS. JUST UP RIVER FROM PROVIDENCE  
IN 1786 REHOBOTH WAS KNOWN FOR COUNTERFEIT COPPERS  
NEWPORT MERCURY OF 8/13/87

"ALL COPPERS BY LAW IN NEW YORK, EXCEPT BUNGTOWNS, ARE FIXED AT  
160 FOR A DOLLAR"

SINCE BUNGTOWN MEANT SHAM OR CTF. COPPERS IT WAS BROADENED BY MISUSE TO EVASIONS  
CROSBY QUOTED MARIS AS SAYING EVASIONS CIRCULATED IN PA.

S.K.HARZFELD PROMOTED SALE OF EVASIONS IN HIS SALES AS PENNSY COPPERS  
WOODWARD SAYS TO HARZFELD GOES CREDIT OF INTRODUCING THIS REMARKABLE SERIES  
TO AMERICAN COLLECTORS

ELDER AND CHAPMAN PROMOTED EVASIONS AS PA. COPPERS OR BUNGTOWNS AND THUS  
THE MEANING IS LOST

NOW BUNGTOWNS ARE EVASIONS RESULTING IN AN AMERICAN EXPRESSION FOR  
IMITATION 1/2D NOW BEING APPLIED TO BRITISH EVASIONS

I QUOTE FROM HAMLET TO ALL WRITERS WHO DESCRIBE EVASIONS AS BUNGTOWNS:

"THIS IS THE VERY COINAGE OF YOUR BRAIN".

FAIRFIELD HOARD

BURIED IN 1789 FOUND IN 1950

8 VERMONTS, 125 CONN., 1 N.Y., 2 VT-BRITANNIA MULLINGS, 7 IRISH HALFPENCE,

17 GEORGE II ENGLISH 1/2D MOST CTF, 29 GEORGE III CTF. OF 1770-5,

3 GEORGE III OF 1776, 13 DATED 1778, 1787 & 1788.

NO NOVAS, NO FARTHING, NO EVASIONS

MACHIN MILLS COINAGE

BLANKS CUT OUT & SMOOTHED AT NIGHT IN SAND, SAWDUST AND WATER IN ROTATING CYLINDER.

NEWBURGH RESIDENT GOT A PECK OF COPPERS FROM MACHIN TO BUY 2 LBS. OF FLOUR AND WAITED WHILE FLOUR DEALER COUNTED OUT COPPERS.

IDENTIFICATION BY TIE IN TO VT. DIES & PUNCHES & CONTINUE CHAIN INTO CONN. NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, AND FED. PATTERNS (IMMUNE)

IMITATIONS AND MULINGS

PREDATING -- OVERSTRIKING

OTHER SOURCES IN AMERICA OF IMITATIONS MAKES TASK DIFFICULT

BATTY DOES NOT LIST 1778, 1788, 1785, and ONLY 1 OF 7 OF 1787, OR SPEC.1776.

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS - DOMED HAIR, CYLINDRICAL CURLS, PERIODS ON BASE LINE, FORKED END OF LOWER RIBBON, SINGLE LEAF HIGHER ON TOP OF WREATH RATHER THAN 3 LEAVES, CROSS ON SHIELD HAS ONLY SINGLE BANDS

N.Y. COMMON COUNCIL ORDERED 48 SHILLING IN JULY 1789 BECAUSE OF INFLUX FROM OTHER STATES --- POOR & SHOPKEEPERS LOADED

CONNECTICUT REPORT SHOWS STOPPAGE IN JUNE 1789

NOT TRUE - NEW RECORDS

ELI LEAVENWORTH MADE FLANS AND STRUCK IN 1788 IN NEW YORK (WHERE?)

SOME COINS SIMILAR TO CONNS. SOME NOT.

GEOR. III - REV. D, 2-D, 16(1)-D

CONCLUSION

UNJUSTLY DENIED STATUS BECAUSE OF CTF. INFERENCE

LEGAL IMITATIONS 1/2D OF MACHINS ARE NEW SERIES OF EARLY AMERICAN COINS

EVASIONS NO LONGER TO BE CALLED BUNGTOWNS

RECLASSIFICATION OF CONN. FED. PATTERNS, VTS. ETC. TO MACHINS

THANKS TO PRIOR WRITERS, RESEARCHERS AND COLLECTORS

THANKS TO WEBBER & TO A.N.S.